

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ALEXAN 00618 150855Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 NASA-02  
OES-07 CU-04 OMB-01 /071 W  
-----064774 150938Z /21

R 150744Z JUL 77

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0938

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 0618

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETEL, BENC

SUBJECT: ARAB SATELLITE CONFERENCE, ALEXANDRIA

REF: CAIRO 2948, MANAMA 1171

1. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL OF THE ARAB SATELLITE  
COMMUNICATIONS ORGANIZATION (ARAB SAT) HELD ITS THIRD  
MEETING JULY 9-13, 1977, BEHIND CLOSED DOORS IN ALEX-  
ANDRIA. PREVIOUS TWO MEETINGS WERE HELD AT CAIRO  
FEBRUARY 1977 AND RIYADH APRIL 1977. A FOURTH MEETING  
IS SCHEDULED FOR TUNISIA, SEPTEMBER 26, 1977.

2. THE ALEXANDRIA CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY RANKING COM-  
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MUNICATIONS OFFICERS FROM SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, KUWAIT,  
UAE, LIBYA OMAN, TUNISIA AND EGYPT DISCUSSED PLANS TO  
EVENTUALLY - OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD - LINK ARAB TV,  
TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEX AND RADIO VIA TWO ORBITING  
SATELLITES WITH A THIRD IN RESERVE. 44 FIRMS, AMERICANS,  
EUROPEANS, AND ARAB-EUROPEANS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE  
CALL FOR TENDERS ON THE SATELLITES AND EQUIPMENT AND MUST

SUBMIT THEIR OFFERS BY AUGUST 10, 1977. "ARAB SAT" ANTI-CIPATES APPROACHING NASA TO PUT THE SATELLITES IN ORBIT. ACCORDING TO "ARAB SAT" BOARD CHAIRMAN DR. IBRAHIM AHMED EBEID OF SAUDI ARABIA THE MAIN STATION OF THE PROJECT WILL BE IN SAUDI ARABIA WITH SUBSTATIONS IN THE 22 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES.

3. BASED ON PRELIMINARY STUDIES BY OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THAT "ARAB SATS" PRESENT CAPITAL OF 100 MILLION DOLLARS IS NOT NEARLY SUFFICIENT FOR ITS AMBITIOUS PLANS AND WILL HAVE TO BE AUGMENTED CONSIDERABLY BY MEMBER STATES.

4. THE "ARAB SAT" ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL ALSO NOMINATED A COMMITTEE TO SELECT A CONSULTANT FOR THE PROJECT AND ANOTHER TO PASS ON THE TENDERS FOR THE SATELLITES AND EQUIPMENT. SINCE AMCONGEN, ALEXANDRIA WAS NOT ABLE TO IDENTIFY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP BEFORE THE CLOSE OF THE CONFERENCE, ADDRESSEE POSTS MAY WANT TO CONTACT THEIR RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES OF COMMUNICATIONS, EACH OF WHOM SENT A DELEGATION, FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO PURSUE POSSIBLE TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

CHASE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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